

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending in this application. Claims 5-24 have been withdrawn from consideration. In this response, applicants have amended independent claims 1, 28 and 31.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 28 and 31 to clarify the invention. In particular, the claims now recite that the carrier is adapted to mate with the sample processing device to form a reaction chamber that is defined in part by the carrier such that at least a portion of the surface that is adapted to have a biological sample attached is disposed in the chamber. Applicants are not attempting to claim the sample that the device uses. Accordingly, the sample itself is not positively recited in the claim. Because several elements found in independent claims 1, 28 and 31 are not disclosed, taught or suggested in the prior art, applicants believe that amended-claims 1, 28-and-31 and-their-dependent-claims are in a condition for allowance.

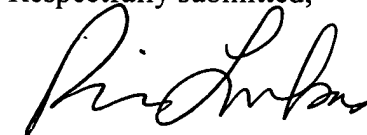
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

1. (Amended three times) A biological sample processing system, comprising:
a sample processing device [including a reaction chamber having a first port]; and
a biological sample carrier having a surface adapted to have a biological sample attached to the surface [mated with the reaction chamber at the first port to form a fluidic circuit; the sample carrier having a surface];

wherein the [sample] carrier is adapted to mate with the device to form a reaction chamber defined in part by the carrier such that at least a portion of the surface adapted to have a biological sample attached is included in the chamber. [have a biological sample coupled to the surface of the sample carrier.]

28. (Amended twice) A biological sample processing system, comprising:
a sample processing device including:
a first chamber having a first port and a second port; and
a second chamber fluidly coupled to the first chamber via the second port; and
a sample carrier having a surface adapted to have a biological sample attached to the surface; the sample carrier being adapted to mate with the device to form the first chamber defined in part by the sample carrier such that at least a portion of the surface adapted to have a biological sample attached is included in the first chamber [fluidly coupled to the first chamber at the first port;
wherein the sample carrier is adapted to have a biological sample coupled to the surface of the sample carrier].

31. (Amended once) A biological sample processing system, comprising:
a sample processing device including:
a first chamber having a first port, a second port and a third port;
a first conduit;
a second chamber fluidly coupled to the first chamber via the second port and the first conduit; and

a second conduit fluidly coupled to the first chamber via the third port; and a sample carrier having a surface adapted to have a biological sample attached to the surface; the sample carrier being adapted to mate with the device to form the first chamber defined in part by the sample carrier such that at least a portion of the surface adapted to have a biological sample attached is included in the first chamber [fluidly coupled to the first chamber at the first port].